Slavery or Freedom:

The Missouri Compromise

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Period 3

During our first few days in the Writing Lab, I was able to create my topic, The Missouri Compromise. As I flipped through the textbook, I recorded topics that looked interesting. Mainly, I was looking for a way to showcase expansion, but I also wanted a topic that had a variety of issues to discuss. After not being able to have certain topics, my choices were limited, so I changed my approach. In doing so, I was able to locate The Missouri Compromise which highlighted the balance of power in the United States, and helped to blend Slavery and freedom into one topic. I had never heard of the Missouri Compromise before so I was very interested in searching for information. By searching for a topic that included expansion, it helped to shape my presentation to better fit this Unit. This is how I found my topic, The Missouri Compromise.

My research process went very smoothly overall, because I utilized the days I had in Writing Lab. First, I used my History Textbook to look up the basic information, after that I used the internet to look up detailed parts of the Missouri Compromise. My main goal was to describe the Missouri Compromise and target each part that was important. My best source was the Civil War website that I found which really helped me to get an overall understanding of how I wanted to organize my paper. The History Textbook also helped, but this website really was the key to my presentation. I found many surprises in my research because I didn't know much about the topic originally, but I was able to complete my research efficiently.

For this project I selected a poster as my visual aid because I wanted to show the division in the states. Also, I wanted to show the contrast between freedom and Slavery. All in all, the poster will help to show my objective, because it will allow for explanation on the important terms in The Missouri Compromise. I would really like the students to be able to examine the motives behind the Missouri Compromise, so by showing the contrast it will help to explain how each part of the United States felt about this Compromise. I spent approximately five days on this project and because of my other commitments, I was not able to work on it during one time. Since I was creating a poster, I used Google Images, and a poster board to complete this part of my presentation. Also, I used Microsoft Word to piece everything together, like the captions and title. In conclusion, my visual aid helps to explain my project topic, The Missouri Compromise, and will allow the student to learn as much as possible from my presentation.

The Unit Project four theme is expansion, so in the beginning of this project I tried to choose a topic that could relate to this theme. My topic, The Missouri Compromise, shows expansion in two ways, with slavery and with freedom. In the terms of the Compromise, it admits two new states into the Union, Missouri and Maine. To keep a balance of power, Missouri is a slave state, and Maine is a free state. This expands slavery and freedom into two new states, but most importantly, it creates two areas in the Louisiana Purchase, a free territory and a slave territory. The Missouri Compromise allows for slaves, and slave owners to pour into new areas and continue their ways. It gave southern slave owners a clear right to pursue escaped fugitives into "free" regions and return them to slavery. This is the part of the Missouri Compromise that temporarily solved the contentious political problem of slavery, which contributed to the next generation having to deal with slavery. Overall, The Missouri Compromise allowed for expansion into the Louisiana territory, and helped the country see the issue of slavery in a different way.

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